

Remarks

The Office Action dated February 26, 2004, and made final, and Advisory Action dated May 25, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-76, 86-102, and 106-120 are pending in this application. Claims 1-76 stand rejected. Claims 86-102 and 106-120 are withdrawn from consideration.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2004, for the above-identified patent application from May 26, 2004, through and including Monday, June 28, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-21, 23-35, 37-64, 66-72, and 74-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spriggs et al. (US 6,421,571) in view of Maguire et al. (US 5,331,579) is respectfully traversed.

Spriggs et al. describe a system that includes a data acquisition module, a database module, a display module including a graphical user interface, and a utilities module. The data acquisition module includes a software module and a plurality of data collector modules to interface with data acquisition devices. The database module includes a relational database for storing the collected data and configuration information. The utilities module includes software modules that increase the communications abilities of the system.

Maguire et al. describe a deterministic, probabilistic and subjective modeling system designed to improve the performance of aging power plants. The system collects, stores, and

displays data representative of the operating condition of the plant components and calculates the expected life of each component. The system reviews historical data relating to a component, evaluates age degradation and extrapolates into the future to develop a life profile including measures of life left and useful life.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 1-21, 23-35, 37-64, 66-72, and 74-76 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 22, 36, 65, and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spriggs et al. (US 6,421,571) in view of Maguire et al. (US 5,331,579), and further in view of Bodo et al. (US 6,122,239) is respectfully traversed.

At least for the reasons explained above, independent Claims 1 and 33 are submitted to be patentable over Spriggs et al. and Maguire et al., alone or in combination.

Bodo et al. is cited for teaching a method and system where the sending component functions in response to a voice command. Bodo et al. is not cited for, and does not teach a method that includes the steps of developing inspection recommendations for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, and determining cracking susceptibility for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database. Also, Bodo et al. is not cited for, and does not teach a server system configured to develop inspection recommendations for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, and determine cracking susceptibility for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database. As explained above, Spriggs et al. and Maguire et al., alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest such a method or such a system.

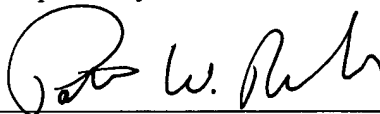
Spriggs et al., Maguire et al., and Bodo et al., alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest a method for managing internal components of nuclear reactor plants as recited in Claim 1 or a network-based system for managing assets as recited in Claim 33. Particularly, and as explained above, Spriggs et al., Maguire et al., and Bodo et al., alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest a method that includes the steps of developing inspection recommendations for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, determining cracking susceptibility for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, and developing contingency options for repair or mitigation of specific internal components.. Further, Spriggs et al., Maguire et al., and Bodo et al., alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest a server system configured to develop inspection recommendations for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, determine cracking susceptibility for specific internal components based on information received and information stored in the database, and develop contingency options for repair or mitigation of specific internal components.. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1 and 33 are patentable over Spriggs et al., Maguire et al., and Bodo et al., alone or in combination.

Claim 22 depends from independent Claim 1 and Claims 36, 65, and 73 depend from independent Claim 33. When the recitations of dependent Claims 22 and 36, 65, and 73 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 33 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22, 36, 65, and 73 likewise are patentable over Spriggs et al., Maguire et al., and Bodo et al., alone or in combination.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 22, 36, 65, and 73 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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